

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on November 5, 2003. Claims 1 – 22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18 and 22 are amended. No new matter is added.

CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' priority claim and receipt of the certified copy of Japanese Patent Application 11-041910.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 – 5 and 8 – 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,710,591 to Bruno et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,977,449 to Morgan. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruno in view of Morgan and U.S. Patent No. 5,541,640 to Larson. Applicants amend claim 5 to delete an extra period, amend claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18 and 22 to further clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse this rejection.

In our Response of August 12, 2003, Applicants made the following arguments:

In independent claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20, Applicants disclose a video telecommunication system including a plurality of video transmission apparatuses 11 each equipped with a camera 12, a video reception apparatus 14 with a monitor 15 and positioned in a single supervisory center, and a network 13 interconnecting the plurality of video transmission apparatuses and the video reception apparatus 14. A video information describing unit 16 for simultaneously sending a switch command for a camera in the plurality of video transmission apparatuses and character information in accordance with the switch command for display by the monitor of the video reception apparatus, where the character information describes the video information of the camera.

Bruno discloses a method and apparatus for recording and indexing an audio and multimedia conference. The apparatus of Bruno includes a plurality of workstations each including a monitor 14 and camera 20, a multipoint control unit (MCU) 26 for multipoint broadcasting of a video signal associated with a detected audio signal, and means for generating and recording a generated location signal together with the detected audio signal.

Unlike Applicants' claimed video telecommunication system, the system of Bruno is not configured to provide a plurality of video transmission apparatuses each having a camera for providing video information to a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center. Moreover, unlike Applicants' claimed video telecommunication system, the system of Bruno does not include Applicants' video information describing unit 16 that simultaneously sends a switch command to a video transmission apparatus and sends character information to a monitor in the single supervisory center to describe the video information of the switched camera. Although, for example, Bruno discloses that MCU 26 is capable of directing video and text information transmitted by a workstation 12, Bruno does not suggest or disclose that MCU 26 is able to simultaneously direct a switch command to a video transmission apparatus controlling a camera while sending character information descriptive of the switched camera to the monitor in the single supervisory center. This feature of Applicants claimed invention is also neither suggested nor disclosed by Larson.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Bruno fails to disclose "providing a plurality of video transmission apparatuses each having a camera for providing information to a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center ...". The Examiner, however, suggests that such a configuration is taught by Morgan (see, e.g., FIG. 3 of Morgan).

In Fig. 3, Morgan discloses a system 50 including a plurality of remote video cameras 52 coupled by broadband facilities to a frequency agile demodulator 58 at a central location, which is further coupled to one or more monitors 60. The demodulator 58 is configured so that any video camera channel can be selected from among a plurality of remote vide cameras 52. The selection may be made manually, or by optional processor control 64 (see, e.g., column 3, lines 48 – 64 of Morgan).

However, unlike Applicants' claimed invention, neither Bruno nor Morgan disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed video information describing unit 16 of Fig. 1 for "sending both a switch command for specifying one of the plurality of cameras to the plurality of video transmission apparatuses and character information describing video information from the specified camera simultaneously, so as to make the monitor display the video information combined with the character information" (see, e.g., amended claim 1 and page 5, line 34 - page 6, line 5 of Applicants' specification). For example, Morgan fails to disclose or otherwise suggest that modulator 58 of FIG. 3 of Morgan is capable of simultaneously directing a switch command to a video transmission apparatus controlling a camera and specifying character information descriptive of the switched camera to the monitor in the single supervisory center.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that their invention as claimed in independent claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20 is not made obvious by the combination of Bruno and Morgan, and that claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20 are therefore allowable. As claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 10, 12 – 14, 16, 19, 21 and 22 each depend from one of allowable claims , 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 10, 12 – 14, 16, 19, 21 and 22 are allowable for at least this reason.

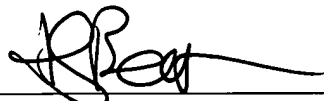
CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that 1 – 22, which include independent claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20, and the claims that depend therefrom, stand in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is

earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bean', written over a horizontal line.

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